

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT TO THE GRADE OF GENERAL IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES THOSE OFFICERS WHO, IN GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL, COMMANDED THE ARMY GROUND FORCES OR COMMANDED AN ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II

JULY 4 (legislative day, JUNE 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BRIDGES, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3186]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3186) to authorize the President to appoint to the grade of general in the Army of the United States those officers who, in grade of lieutenant general, commanded the Army Ground Forces or commanded an Army during World War II, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments, and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL

Amend the bill as follows:

Page 1, line 5, strike the word "commanded" and insert in lieu thereof the words, "by virtue of assignment, respectively, were the commanding generals of".

Page 1, line 6, capitalize the letters "g" and "f" in the words, "ground forces".

Page 1, line 7, after the word "or" first appearing, strike the word "commanded" and insert in lieu thereof the words "were each in command, respectively, as Army commander of", and strike the word "or" where last appearing.

Page 1, line 8, strike the word "Armies".

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to extend to a distinguished group of Army officers, who are now either deceased or retired, a form of recognition for their outstanding service to the United States during the hostilities incident to World War II.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

These officers served during World War II with three-star rank although they actually were filling positions which called for four-star rank. The individuals either were killed in action, deceased, or retired before they could be given the four-star rank while on active duty. The bill would advance these individuals to the grade of general, the advancement to be made either on the retired list or in the form of a posthumous promotion.

The Department of the Army interposes no objection to the bill but recommends the above amendments, all of which are completely technical in nature, and do not address themselves either to the purpose or the policy of the bill. The letter from the Secretary of the Army, indicating the concurrence of the Department of Defense and the Bureau of the Budget, gives the names of the individual officers concerned. The letter is hereby made a part of this report.

The enactment of this legislation would not involve additional cost to the Government.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., July 4, 1952.

HON. RICHARD B. RUSSELL,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
United States Senate.*

DEAR SENATOR RUSSELL: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to S. 3186, Eighty-second Congress, a bill to authorize the President to appoint to the grade of general in the Army of the United States those officers who, in grade of lieutenant general, commanded the Army Ground Forces or commanded an army during World War II, and for other purposes. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Army the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense thereon.

The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense favors enactment of the above-mentioned bill.

Enactment of this legislation would authorize the President to appoint to the grade of general in the Army of the United States those officers who, while serving in grade of lieutenant general, between specified limiting dates during World War II, commanded the Army Ground Forces or commanded an army or armies in the field in designated theaters of operations. None of the officers concerned are still on the active list of the Army. The President would be authorized to advance to grade of general the affected retired officers on the retired list and to promote posthumously to grade of general the affected deceased officers. The officers who would be eligible for advancement to four-star grade under the provisions of this bill are:

Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, deceased (killed in action July 27, 1944), commanding general, Army Ground Forces;

Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, retired, commanding general, Army Ground Forces;

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, retired, commanding general, Ninth Army, European theater;

Lt. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., retired, commanding general, Fifth Army (Italy), Mediterranean theater;

Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr., deceased, commanding general Seventh Army, north African theater, Mediterranean theater and European theater;

Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, Jr., deceased (killed in action June 18, 1945), commanding general, Tenth Army, Pacific theater;

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, retired, commanding general, Eighth Army, Pacific theater; and

Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, retired, commanding general, Fifteenth Army, European theater.

The rank of general in the Army of the United States is a grade prescribed for commanders of the Army Ground Forces (now designated as Army Field Forces) and for wartime Army commanders in active theaters of operations. The enactment of this legislation would provide suitable recognition of the distinguished services of these officers rendered in positions of great responsibility and impor-

tance and the magnificent accomplishments of the forces under their respective commands reflect the superior manner in which each of them functioned as a wartime commander. The promotions to be authorized by this legislation would be in keeping with the rank accorded other Army officers who held similar wartime commands during the same limiting periods; namely:

Gen. Joseph W. Stillwell, deceased, commanding general, Army Ground Forces;
Gen. Jacob Devers, retired, commanding general, Army Ground Forces;
Gen. Courtney Hodges, retired, commanding general, First Army;
Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., deceased, commanding general, Third Army; and
Gen. Walter Krueger, retired, commanding general, Sixth Army.

In order to assure that the bill relates only to those officers duly assigned, respectively, as commanders of the Army Ground Forces and as commanders of any of the combat armies of the United States, as enumerated above, as distinguished from an officer who may have exercised command by virtue of other circumstances, the following technical changes to the bill are recommended:

Line 5: Strike the word "commanded" and insert the words "by virtue of assignment, respectively, were the commanding generals of".

Line 6: Capitalize the letters "g" and "f" in the words, "ground forces".

Line 7: After the word "or" first appearing, strike the word "commanded" and insert in lieu thereof the words "were each in command, respectively, as Army commander of", and strike the word "or" where last appearing.

Line 8: Strike the word "Armies".

The enactment of this legislation would not involve additional cost to the Government as the bill specifically provides that no increase of basic or retired pay or allowances shall result from appointments made thereunder.

This report has been coordinated among the departments and boards of the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that shortness of time has not permitted its consideration of this report but it offered no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK PACE, Jr.,
Secretary of the Army.

○

